

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 922

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to recognize Kay Akin Durden on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Kay Durden is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for forty-four years at the University of Tennessee at Martin (UT Martin) as a student, cheerleader, secretary, teacher, and advisor; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Durden has performed her duties with diligence and dexterity and has earned the unbridled respect and admiration of the administration, staff, faculty, and students at UT Martin for the superior quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Durden is a life-long scholar who possesses the knowledge necessary to provide valuable services in the business environment; she began her accumulation of this knowledge by obtaining a bachelor's degree in office administration from UT Martin before receiving her master's and doctoral degrees in business education from the University of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Kay Durden is a master teacher who has touched an immeasurable number of lives as a mentor to both students and young professors as educators and professionals; throughout her illustrious tenure, she has shown herself to be a creative and committed educator who has maintained a large and dynamic course portfolio to better serve her students and the school; and

WHEREAS, while serving as a faculty member in the College of Business and Public Affairs, Dr. Durden published numerous journal articles, case studies, and other scholarly works; attended and presented at professional meetings; conducted professional development workshops; and participated in public and university service and consulting activities; and

WHEREAS, Kay Durden is an active and important part of her profession, participating in numerous worthy organizations, including the International Association of Administrative Professionals, Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, and Delta Pi Epsilon, the National Professional Business Education Association; and

WHEREAS, as a notable member of Phi Chi Theta National Professional Fraternity for Business and Economics, Dr. Durden provided leadership for the chartering of the Beta Chi Chapter at UT Martin and served as the chapter's first faculty advisor; she also served with acumen and alacrity as the National President of the organization from 1995-2000 and Chair of the Executive Policy Board from 2000-2002, in addition to participating as a member of the Martin Alumni chapter of the fraternity; and

WHEREAS, Kay Durden has rightfully received many awards and accolades acknowledging her countless contributions to the field of business education, including several Excellence in Service Awards and Excellence in Teaching Awards from the UT Martin College of Business and Public Affairs, the UT Martin Outstanding Advisor Award, the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Distinguished Professor Award from 1992-2006, and the Phi Chi Theta Fraternity Alumni Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Durden exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, she is an active and devout member of Greenfield Presbyterian Church, where she has faithfully worshipped throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, her many awards and accomplishments aside, Dr. Durden is most appreciative of the love and support she receives from her husband, Don; her son, David, and his wife, Lisa; and her grandson, Cid; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Kay Durden has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Kay Akin Durden our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.